



Emery County  
Trail's Committee

March 3, 2026 8:00 AM



Attendance: Terri Bennett, Brett White, Andy Gordon, Josh White, Les Wilberg, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Steven Jeffery, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell, Jaydon Mead, Josh Clark, Tifnie Hansen, Wayne Luddington, Kristi Talbot, Nicole Nielsen, Wade Allinson, Ed Geary, Julie Janus

**Welcome Chairman: Terri Bennett**

**1. Approval of Minutes: February 2026** Motion to approve made by Rod, seconded by Don.

**Motion passed.**

**2. Discuss/Approve/Deny: BLM letter regarding Mt Dew Trail.** Motion to approve the writing of the letter by the trails committee. The letter is asking the BLM to consider opening a section of the trail. Discussion on some wording and clarification on the route and location for the letter.

Motion to approve made by Les, seconded by Don. **Motion passed.**

**3. Committee Members:**

- **Josh White-Motorized** Josh reported progress on the upcoming dirt bike rally with a big announcement coming this week that can be seen on their social media pages. They anticipate selling out admission this year which is around 400 participants.  
Discussion on an OHV jamboree ride with Adventure Hideaway out of The Swell Retreat on September 24-26. This will include mountain and desert rides. Discussion on routes, permits, and accommodations.
- **Andy Gordon- OHV** Andy shared the upcoming Watermelon Crawl event in Green River. Castle Country OHV has partnered with Green River to put the event on.
- **Brett White-Back Country Pilots** Brett reported that everything is looking good on the airstrips. March opens up a busy plane season. They received a donation of weather cameras and a weather station for the airport and got that set up last week to provide weather and sky conditions to visitors. Discussion on Sage Brush Bench.
- **Mike Cologie- OHV/Motorized**
- **Les Wilberg- OHV/UTV** Les reported that the Cottonwood Parking Lot was completed with the help of the County Road Department. It turned out really well. Les also reported working on the Muddy Overlook trail. The culverts needed to be relocated and the first washout was made into a dip which should hold up better. The road shop did some very useful grading down by I-70. Les has received some complaints about the restrooms down by Buckhorn Draw. Jaydon responded that deep spring cleaning was in the works and the restrooms have been receiving maintenance cleans throughout the winter. Les mentioned needing to do a pre-ride in the Chimney Rock, Stove Gulch area to prepare for future work. Les also reported 200-300 yards below South Eagle Canyon trail that could use the help of the state crew to clean up.
- **Rod Player- Non-motorized** Rod shared that the Forest Plan Revision for the Manti La Sal is

approaching a final decision which doesn't include any road or trail changes. When the environmental assessment goes out, there will be 10 days to respond and get on a list to object. He encouraged meeting attendees to get on the list and respond.

- **Don Bennett- Equestrian** Don reported the Chute Canyon ride last weekend with the BackCountry Horsemen that had a good turnout.
- **Terri Bennett- Mountain Biking** Terri shared that mountain biking is still slow but will be picking up. She's had some inquiries about Goodwater and it should be in good shape, she hasn't been up to check Little's creek but has spent some time on the Swell Retreat trail. The MECCA festival is coming and gathering registrations. The Swell Retreat needs some hand work to get finished up. Mark Jespersen mentioned that if a work project was scheduled on a Saturday, they could most likely get the high school team out to help.
- **Steven Jeffery- Rock Climbing** Steven shared that college spring break is typically the start of climbing season. He's been cleaning up trails in the Grime's Wash/ New Joes area. With the lack of snow, he expects climbers to head straight into the canyon. He also expressed that the two new parking areas in Cottonwood Canyon were done very well. They will finish by including signs for the nearby trails. He mentioned that from the fork in the road up to the mine, there aren't a lot of scattered climbing routes, which helps keep climbers in designated areas. He also expressed appreciation for the videos made of parking developments as it helps spread the word and awareness among climbers. Discussion on other road conditions between Coal Haul Road and up Straight Canyon. Presentation of Jaydon's video of the new parking lot improvement. The plan for the coalition is to spend the summer in the climbing area for that parking lot which will keep the climbers in more remote areas which is good for everyone. The first weekend in May will bring the Pump-A-Thon event which will include a climbing competition and a trail work day. Tickets for that event will go on sale later this month. Steven also asked about a historical/memorial monument for the Wilberg Wash area to educate visitors on the area.

#### **4. Discuss Reports of the Following:**

**a. BLM** Jaydon gave an update on Cleveland Lloyd. The buildings over the quarries are being removed and replaced with a new building starting in May. The Jurassic National Monument and visitor center will remain open but it will be a busy construction area. They are receiving some Monument funding to help with the project. Seasonals are starting to come back next week and throughout March which brings the start of field season. The San Rafael Swell plan amendments are currently in the middle of workshop, they are writing resource analysis for these amendments and refining alternatives. The Wedge Campground project plans are in process, hoping to release the EA in May. They plan to go look at things there with the Road Dept. in a couple weeks to see if they can help with

some implementation with the roads and campgrounds. Jaydon expressed appreciation to thefor the possibility of their help. Terri asked for the video of work done at the culvert area, it would be shown at the end of the meeting. Jaydon also brought up the Moore Canyon and talking with the State Crew. They plan to do some work with the Backcountry Horsemen to do some trail work in that area. Discussion on a date for the project. Temple Mountain is on the schedule for April, Jaydon is trying to get signs here in time but they may not make it. Terri mentioned that a few Backcountry Horsemen have expressed interest in volunteering on the Temple Mountain project. Jaydon responded that the state crew is being invited as well, but he would also take volunteers. Les brought up Bell View Flats, Jaydon responded that the parking area is on SITLA land and there is somewhat of a “play area” that needs to be eliminated to decrease the tendency to “play” on other hills and off-trail areas. They’ll put a fence up to block the current “play area” hill and create a separate parking area that is fenced on the BLM side so that people can’t go back and forth across the hill.

**b. Forest Service** Les mentioned some leftover culverts that might be used on the bike trail. Josh reported that contractor work has been started on the Joe’s Valley Campground. Last year they tore out a lot of the structures that would be replaced this year. They’ll be redesigning the campground so that bigger rigs can fit and adding a couple more sites. Josh reported closing the Miller’s Flat gates at Bald Mtn and HWY 31. There’s not enough snow to stop vehicles till they get in there a ways, but then they get stranded. Cottonwood was likely also closed. Les asked about the Des Be Dove trail and whether it had been closed, discussion on liability, what kind of machines can go up the trail, and the nature of repairs for the trail.

**c. State Agencies** Wade reminded the group that the Mountain West Trail Conference is coming up in May. The OHVR grants closed yesterday with over 35 applicants which is very competitive. There will be several grants coming back to Emery County. The RTP side of it is open now. Trail Crew work applications are open now, and they are trying to reach out to different groups for trail input. Tifnie’s crew was able to get out and work in the snow a little bit. Tifnie included that they’d been able to work on Miller’s Flat, Potter’s Pond, North Skyline, and the Warming Hut. Snow grooming was slow this year, the lower areas didn’t get much snow.

Tifnie mentioned the expansion of the Millsite campsites which has been paused due to being down an employee momentarily. At Huntington they are updating their sites to be back-in sites to get them off the road. Seasonals should be starting soon.

Terri mentioned that there has been a lot of work done at Goblin Valley to manage correct trail use.

**d. Commission** Keven mentioned appreciation for all the work being done.

## **e. Travel Bureau and Public Lands**

**AnnDee Mead:** AnnDee shared that commission approved the application for an OHVR grant and an RTP grant to start a signing crew here at the county in collaboration with the FS, Sanpete County FS, and OnX Trails. The FS can't hire the help needed and the Arapeen Trail system needs a lot of signage updates. The hiring process will start soon to get work underway. This should take two years and if it goes well, the potential plan would be to expand to other areas. AnnDee also shared a current bill (HB 231) that would eliminate the restaurant tax in Utah. This funding goes toward our museums, Millsite Golf Course, the Aquatic Center, and trails programs/grants. She encouraged committee members to research and get involved if they felt inclined. Discussion on the Millsite Golf Course and the progress toward selling.

**Jim Jennings:**

## **4. Adjourn.**

**Next Trails Meeting: April 7, 2026**

**Council** - Terri Bennett, Brett White, Andy Gordon, Josh White, Mike Cologie,  
Les Wilberg, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Steven Jeffery

**Staff** – Keven Jensen, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell

